

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

March 1, 2004

(status through Feb. 29, prepared Mar. 3)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION **215**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **125**

Los Angeles Zoo	26
San Diego WAP	22
WCBP Boise	41
Oregon Zoo	12
Mentor birds in field pens	3
Pre-release birds in field pens	21
Southern California	8
Baja California	3
Arizona	10

WILD POPULATION **90**

California	44
Southern California-released birds in wild	20
Central California-released birds in wild	24

Baja California (wild) **5**

Arizona (wild) **41**

Changes in February:

No releases or losses.

Eggs laid in 2004:

Los Angeles Zoo – 2 laid, 2 incubating

San Diego WAP – 7 laid, 7 incubating

WCBP Boise – 7 laid, 6 incubating

Wild, California – possibly 3

California Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

See below for detailed summary and explanatory notes

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TOTAL POPULATION

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CAPTIVE POPULATION

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Los Angeles Zoo	26	
San Diego WAP	22	
WCBP Boise	41	
Oregon Zoo	12	
Mentor birds in field pens	3	(SB# 36 in So. CA; # 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	21	
Southern California	8	(SB# 294, 298, 301, 303, 306 311, 317, 318)
Central California	0	
Baja California	3	(SB# 269, 279, 284)
Arizona	10	(SB# 291, 293, 296, 297, 299, 300, 302, 304, 314, 316)

WILD POPULATION

90

California		44
Southern California-released birds	20	
In wild	20	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Central California-released birds	24	
In wild	24	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Baja California		5
In wild	5	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		41
In wild	41	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	

Changes in February:

No releases or losses.

Eggs laid in 2004:

Los Angeles Zoo – 2 laid, 2 incubating, fertility unknown

San Diego WAP – 7 laid, 6 fertile, 1 unkn., 7 incubating

WCBP Boise – 7 laid, 1 non-viable, 0 infertile, 3 unkn., 6 incubating

Oregon Zoo – 0

Wild, California – possibly 3, based on behavior of pairs

Production in 2004 to date: 16 captive-laid eggs; possibly 3 wild-laid eggs

Production in 2003: 28 offspring in captivity and 1 fledgling in the wild were produced from 41 captive-laid and 4 wild-laid eggs.

Explanatory notes:

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- WAP is Wild Animal Park (Zoological Society of San Diego); WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey (The Peregrine Fund)

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds in Arizona and several other states east of California, released by The Peregrine Fund.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.

Wild Population Statistics, Mar. 1, 2004

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 returned to captivity, relocated

1992-95: So. CA - 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

Since 1995:

161 California condors released (So. CA – 52; Cent. CA – 38; Baja CA – 5; AZ – 66)

58 released-bird deaths: (0 in 1995; 2 in 1996; 6 in 1997; 5 in 1998; 7 in 1999; 16 in 2000; 5 in 2001; 7 in 2002; 10 in 2003; 0 so far in 2004)

14 returned to captivity permanently, indefinitely, or for extended treatment or rehabilitation

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: 2 in 2001; 3 in 2002; 1 in 2003

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: 1 in 2001; 2 in 2002; 3 in 2003

5 known deaths of nestlings in the wild in CA; 1 bird fledged in the wild in AZ

July 1 totals: 6 in 1995, 17 in '96, 29 in '97, 38 in '98, 49 in '99, 48 in '00, 56 in '01, 64 in '02, 82 in '03

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